

# ATHENS REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES Minutes of October 17, 2024 Meeting

Athens-Clarke County  
Library, Boardroom, 3:30 pm

The meeting was called to order at 3:34 p.m. by Chairman Campbell. Present were Mr. Campbell, Ms. Frey, Mr. Garner, Mr. Lutz, Ms. Norris, Ms. Brickman, Ms. Morris, Ms. Cox, Ms. Froetschel, Ms. Terrell, and Mr. Woods. Ms. Russell was absent.

Staff present were Ms. Bell, Ms. Price, Ms. Shimobi-Obijuru, Ms. Mayfield, Ms. Plaksin, Ms. Josey, Ms. Lavengood, and Ms. Green.

**Recognitions and Resolutions** - Chair Campbell amended the agenda to move recognitions, resolutions, and announcements to number 12 on the agenda.

The board unanimously approved (motioned by Ms. Brickman, seconded by Ms. Terrell).

The Draft Minutes of the July 18, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved (motioned by Ms. Cox, seconded by Mr. Woods).

The October 17, 2024 agenda was adopted (motioned by Ms. Brickman, seconded by Ms. Terrell).

**Public Comment** - none

## **Financial Report:**

Ms. Lavengood gave the report. Board members were presented with the FY2025-Q1 Financial Report. Ms. Lavengood opened the floor for questions and comments. Financial Report FY2025-Q1 was unanimously accepted (motioned by Mr. Garner, seconded by Mr. Woods).

## **Regional Reports**

### **Athens-Clarke County:**

Ms. Bell gave the report. She reported that business with the future East Side Library continues to move forward.

She was pleased to report that the application for Congressional Spending through Jon Osoff's office has moved on to the second phase of the appropriations process. If approved the funds will be used for a Business Incubator for the new East Side facility.

The Athens-Clarke County Library will be receiving much needed new carpet in the new year. The project is expected to start mid-January.

The Athens-Clarke County Library is moving toward solar panel "trees." The

installation of the solar panels will start soon.

### **Franklin County:**

Ms. Mayfield gave the report. She was excited to report that Branch Manager Maggie West now has a new assistant.

Ms. Mayfield is working with Director Bell to submit MRR requests.

The Board is working to fill vacant board seats.

### **Madison County:**

Ms. Ross gave the report. She reported that the Board meeting was delayed.

She was pleased to report that numbers (patronage, programming, etc,) are up in all areas.

Programming continues to go well.

### **Oconee County:**

Mr. Campbell gave the report. Bogart hosted a story stroll trail. Local artists were featured and the event was very well attended.

Watkinsville held an outreach event offering free hearing screenings. The event went well.

Numbers in general are up, and the library is planning more weekend programming.

The Board has new officers and Ms. Norris will serve as Chair.

### **Oglethorpe:**

Mr. Garner gave the report. He reported that two trustees will roll off the Board soon. He introduced Ms. Dana Froetschel. Ms Froetschel will represent the Oglethorpe branch on the Regional Board.

Mr. Garner was pleased to report that the calendar year budget was approved, and funding has increased from the county. Mr. Garner suspects the increase may be related to the significant positive effect the library has had on the community.

The Bluey Boo Bash program was a great success.

The library is looking forward to the Friends Book Sale and upcoming Christmas Bizarre.

### **Director's Report:**

Director Bell gave the report. She was pleased to report that the Annual Report was submitted on time to the state. She was excited to see an increase in usage across the region. She thanked Ms. Price and all staff members who contributed.

Requests For Reconsideration have significantly decreased. However, we have received open records requests, including some from other states. We are working with an attorney who comes highly recommended by Julie Walker to handle these requests.

The MRR request deadline is October 31st. She asked board members to send any additional requests to her before the deadline.

Ms. Bell assured the Board that the Assistant Directors are well informed on all

upcoming projects to ensure a smooth transition as her retirement approaches.

Ms. Bell is requesting Board approval to designate the Friday after Thanksgiving as a paid staff holiday. Many part-time staff members, who do not typically receive holiday pay, would greatly appreciate having this time off to spend with their families and friends.

Ms. Bell assured the Board that even with this addition, the library system's total number of paid holidays would remain consistent with those observed by other public buildings in the region. **(Action Item)**

## **Committee Reports**

**Finance** - None

**Personnel** - Mr. Campbell gave the report. The committee has assembled a search committee for a new Executive Director with a representative from each of the counties. The committee is as follows:

- Mark Campbell, Oconee County
- Chip Woods, Clarke County
- Katie Morris, Madison County
- Mary Frey, Oglethorpe County
- John Foster, Franklin County

Trustees were given resumes and cover letters of prospective candidates. He asked the Board to read over each applicant's resume and cover letter. Questions and concerns should be sent to the search committee. The committee will meet and make a recommendation. A vote should take place in January.

**Policy** - None

**Nominating** - Mr. Campbell gave the report. He presented the 2025 Slate of Officers:

- Executive Chair - David "Chip" Campbell (Athens)
- Vice Chair - Katie Ann Morris (Madison)
- Treasurer - Rubielen Norris (Oconee)

The ARLS 2025 Slate of Officers was unanimously approved (motioned by Mr. Garner, seconded by Ms. Cox). **(Action Item)**

**Old Business:** None

## **New Business:**

- a. Approval to close all facilities the day after Thanksgiving as a paid holiday - Unanimously approved (motioned by Ms. Brickman, seconded by Ms. Cox).

- b. Approval of FY25 Calendar of Scheduled Closings - Unanimously approved (motioned by Mr. Woods, seconded by Mr. Garner).
- c. Approval to use \$1900 from GA Fund One/Hartman Estates fund to pay SDD 2024 Keynote Speakers - Unanimously approved (motioned by Ms. Norris, seconded by Mr. Lutz).

### **Announcements:**

Chair Campbell reminded everyone of the upcoming Staff Development Day and encouraged trustees to attend if they were available.

### **Recognitions and Resolutions:**

Chair Campbell thanked Director Bell for her hard work, service, and leadership. Ms. Bell thanked the ARLS Board for their unwavering support.

Ms. Bell presented Mr. Campbell and Ms. Russell with bookplates in their honor. She thanked them for their dedication and service on the board as their terms were coming to an end on December 31, 2024.

### **Adjourn:**

With no further business, Chairman Campbell called for adjournment at 4:32 p.m. Unanimously accepted.(motioned by Ms. Norris, seconded by Ms. Russell)

Next Meeting January 16, 2025 at 3:30 pm.

### **Board Actions**

- Approval to close all facilities the day after Thanksgiving as a paid holiday - Unanimously approved (motioned by Ms. Brickman, seconded by Ms. Cox).
- Approval of FY25 Calendar of Scheduled Closings - Unanimously approved (motioned by Mr. Woods, seconded by Mr. Garner).
- Approval to use \$1900 from GA Fund One/Hartman Estates funds to pay SDD 2024 Keynote Speakers - Unanimously approved (motioned by Ms. Norris, seconded by Mr. Lutz).
- Approval of the ARLS 2025 Slate of Officers - Unanimously approved (motioned by Mr. Garner, seconded by Ms. Cox).